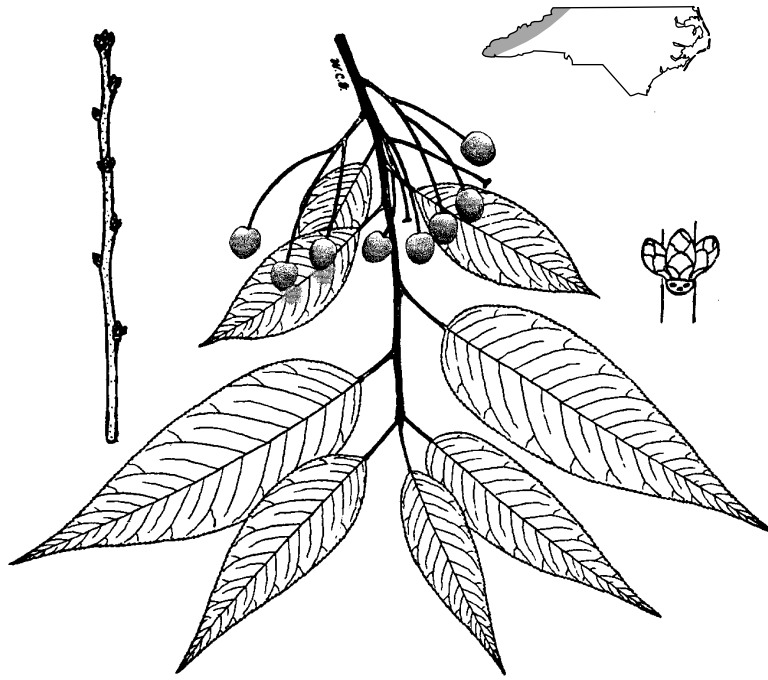


Pin Cherry

(*Prunus pensylvanica* L. f.)



Pin cherry, also known as wild red cherry, fire cherry and bird cherry, commonly develops in clearings, along fence rows and along roadsides in the mountains.

The **leaves** are oblong, measuring 3 to 5 inches long and 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches in width. The margins are finely and sharply toothed and rather thin. The leaves are lustrous yellowish-green on both surfaces, but are slightly paler on the underside.

The **fruits** are light red drupes about 1/4 inch in diameter, with a thin, very sour flesh. They are attached in small, lateral, umbel-like clusters and ripen during July and August.

The **bark** of the young trunks and branches is lustrous and bright reddish-brown. It is conspicuously marked with horizontally elongated lenticels (small openings, usually surrounded by rough, corky tissue in the bark of a twig) and frequently peels off in horizontal strips. The green inner bark is pungent and very bitter.

The **tree** is short-lived and small, occasionally reaching a height of 30 feet and a diameter of up to 1 foot. The wood has little commercial value. Many species of wild birds, including the wild grouse, eat the fruits. Almost all of its seeds are spread by birds.